

# ***IOWA OUTDOORS***

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

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## **NONRESIDENT SPRING TURKEY LICENSE APPLICATIONS BEGIN JANUARY 4**

DES MOINES – The Iowa DNR will open the nonresident spring turkey hunting license application at 6 a.m., Jan. 4. The licenses will be available until the quota is filled or the last day of the season, which ever is first. Nonresident licenses are only available by calling 1-800-367-1188.

Nonresident turkey licenses cost \$100.50, the small game license is \$80.50 and the habitat fee is \$8.50. There is a nonrefundable application fee. The small game license for nonresident hunters 17 or younger is \$30.50.

Hunting zones 1, 2 and 3 are closed to nonresidents. Season 2, from April 18 – 22, is also closed to nonresidents

Licenses are available for shotgun/muzzleloader/bow hunters:

Season 1: April 14 – 17

Zone 4: 350 licenses

Zone 5: 100 licenses

Zone 6: 220 licenses

Zone 7: 46 licenses

Season 3: April 23 – 29

Zone 4: 350 licenses

Zone 5: 100 licenses

Zone 6: 220 licenses

Zone 7: 46 licenses

Season 4: April 30 – May 18

Zone 4: 350 licenses

Zone 5: 100 licenses

Zone 6: 220 licenses

Zone 7: 46 licenses

For more information, check the 2003 Iowa Spring Turkey Hunting Guide available at DNR offices, license vendors or on the web at [www.state.ia.us/wildlife](http://www.state.ia.us/wildlife), click on hunting and trapping then on wild turkey.

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## **DEER SEASON RECAP**

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Not your typical deer season. Mild temperatures instead of December snow made it feel more like October's pheasant opener for 80,000 or so first shotgun season hunters. It didn't get any colder the following week as about 50,000 second season hunters shed parkas for sweatshirts and vests.

"We did have about an inch of snow up where we were," said Mark Sadewasser. A Guttenberg native, Sadewasser, of Iowa City, was hunting back home with his family and friends. The 10 hunters 'ride the waves' of the Mississippi River, hunting the islands below Guttenberg. "It's very flat, compared to the hilly landscape of the Mississippi and Turkey rivers around here. You have a lot easier hunting," said Sadewasser. "You do have to be more careful about where the guys are (with the long, flat terrain). We've pushed this area for eight years, so we know our stands pretty well. We're safe in that respect."

They held back, on opening day, settling for just a couple bucks. "We're pretty much 'buck only' until the fourth day," admitted Sadewasser. "We must have seen 25 or 30 deer; mostly does and small bucks."

A lot of first season groups still adhere to the 'bucks only' tradition during the first day or two. In the past few years, landowners and wildlife officials have encouraged hunters to shoot more does, reducing higher population hot spots. Antlerless tags and depredation permits have helped; allowing hunters more than one gun license. "It was real nice weather and hunters were enjoying their time in the field," observed Willy Suchy, Department of Natural Resources deer biologist. "They were seeing good numbers of deer and a lot of them were just waiting to find a nice (buck)."

Suchy was one of the biologists staffing check stations, as northeast Iowa hunters brought in harvested deer for tissue sampling. The samples are being used to build a 'data

base' in the event Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) ever appears in Iowa. It has been confirmed in west central Wisconsin and a handful of other states. That created an extra element of interest, to the Sadewassers' island bucks. Those slivers of land hold a distinct population; deer crossing back and forth between Iowa and Wisconsin. Biologists set up one of the eight check stations there, with that in mind.

Though turnout was low, hunters who volunteered their deer for sampling, thought it was a good idea. "They realize it is a program to look at herd health, so it's working out real well," offered Dr. Dale Garner, the DNR biologist coordinating the CWD monitoring. "Some hunters stopped off, as they broke for lunch. Others came after they were done for the day. Biologists even went out in the field, to do sampling." Though fatal to deer and elk, the disease has not been shown to affect other species, including livestock and humans. "It's a surveillance program to look at herd health," explained Garner. "With it being in Wisconsin; with the Mississippi River right here, we do have concerns."

As always, hunter success was mixed. Our group of five—sometimes six—second season hunters had to work hard for two deer in three days. Two run-ins with the same group of trespassers and an additional 'with permission' party fouled up weekend drives in Delaware County. The high spot was being there as 10-year-old Tyler Smith tagged his first deer...a small eight-point buck. That came on a first-time-ever drive for us, on a wide, flat creek bed with about 10 trees. We were back up there the following day; four weekday stragglers, giving it another try. Actually, we saw more deer as our drivers pushed grassy, CRP-type fields, or mixed CRP/timber areas. Suchy had suggested the non-traditional drives as good ways to push out deer avoiding the heavy, once-a-year pressure in the woods.

Ironically, in southern Iowa, another group felt the impact of not enough hunters. "It was as quiet as it's been in all the years we have hunted Shimek State Forest," remarked Loren Forbes, of Iowa City. "We usually count on hunters all around us to move the deer. It seems like hunter numbers have dropped off there." In the 25 to 30 years, he, his sons and friends have hunted east of Farmington, in Van Buren County, Iowa's deer season has really come of age. "It used to be, if we even *saw* a deer, that was something," recalls Forbes. "And to actually get one? That *was* a big deal!" Now, he guesses that Iowa hunters stay closer to home, as the deer herd has grown. Forbes' party of nine might have worked harder, but they still came out of the first season weekend with eight whitetails, including an 11 point buck and two nice 10 pointers. Hunting just south of Iowa City with antlerless, depredation tags, they brought home a half dozen more.

With the close of Iowa's shotgun seasons, the hardy, late muzzleloader hunters and a few cold weather bow fanatics will still be out there. A special late season, designed to attract more hunters to southern Iowa's 'high deer, low people' counties will add to the winter recreation, as Iowans enjoy tromping through the outdoors....and bringing home meat for the freezer, as well as few antlers for the walls.

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## **BOAT REGISTRATIONS DUE IN 2003**

DES MOINES – Boat and personal watercraft owners are required to renew the registration of their vessels by April 30, 2003. Registration fees vary depending on the size of the vessel and are paid to the county recorder in the county where the owner resides. Failure to display current registration is a simple misdemeanor.

Iowa's recreational boating activities continue to grow each year. Registration fees are used to support Iowa's boating enforcement and safety program.

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## **NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION 2003 MEETING SCHEDULE**

DES MOINES – The Natural Resource Commission will hold a teleconference meeting, if needed, on Jan. 9. The commission approved the following meeting schedule for 2003

- February 13 at the Linn County Toddville-Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center
- March 13 in Des Moines
- April 10 – a teleconference
- May 8 at the Loess Hills
- June 12 in Black Hawk County
- July 10 – a teleconference
- August 14 in Chariton
- September 11 at Viking Lake State Park
- October 9 at Waterloo Creek in Northeast Iowa
- November 13 in Des Moines
- December 11 in Des Moines

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